

## Virginia Latino Advisory Board

### Housing Committee Meeting

February 4, 2021

Attendees: Suzanne, Maribel, Walewska, Rodrigo and Carmen:

#### Topics:

1. Eviction prevention- extension of deadline via the VA budget and CDC in line with our recommendations;
2. RMRP- additional federal funding to the magnitude of \$500M came to VA as part of the year-end federal relief package
  - a. RMRP rollout has improved since the Fall especially with the inception of the landlord portal
  - b. Next step-will be Suzanna to secure an update on the racial/ethnic breakdown on how these funds are being deployed so we can help ensure we have equity at our March VLAB meeting
3. Housing Trust Fund and new housing tools
  - a. Some activity in the GA this week to increase the funding of the trust fund in the budget
    - i. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEP- write a subcommittee letter to the governor to support these additions to the budget as consistent with our 2020 Annual recommendations
    - ii. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEP- there is also a proposal for the introduction of a new State Housing Tax Credit to also aid in production of affordable housing. While NOT in our 2020 recommendation, consistent with our annual recommendations to increase tools and investment to foster production of much needed affordable housing in the state and likely to become part of a 2021 report.
4. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEP- highlight Walewska's recommendation from our 2020 report around the elimination of attorney's fees recovery in cases arising as unlawful detainers for non-payment of rent (see attached for full summary of the issue)
  - a. IMMEDIATE NEXT STEP- request in the letter to the Gov. to setup a task force explore the issue and 2020 recommendation. As this requires a change to the VA Code, a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach is in order. Request Nov 2021 as the end point for that working group to report back to the administration and the committee.